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PENCE CALLS VOLCKER REPORT ON U.N. "TROUBLING"

Says Legislative Action Needed to Address Mounting U.N. Concerns

Washington, Mar 29, 2005 - Congressman Mike Pence, a member of the Oversight Subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee that is handling investigations into the U.N. Oil for Food scandal, issued the following statement in the wake of a report released by the Independent Inquiry Committee by Chairman Paul A. Volcker today.

"The Volcker Report should be troubling to every American taxpayer as it points to mounting evidence that the purpose, principles and ideals of the United Nations may have been violated. Mismanagement by senior officials at the United Nations pulls at the fraying fabric of credibility upon which this world body rests and must be addressed," said Pence.

Pence also commended House International Relations Committee Chairman Henry Hyde for moving forward with legislation intended to accelerate action on United Nations reform proposals.

"The United States is the largest financial contributor to the United Nations. The concerns of millions of Americans must not be ignored. Congress should move forward with amendments to the Foreign Relations Authorization Act authored by Chairman Hyde in order to accelerate the reform process at the United Nations," said Pence.

Chairman Hyde plans to include reform provisions in the Foreign Relations Authorization Act. The authorization act, which funds operations of the U.S. Department of State and U.S. contributions to international organizations, is scheduled for markup in the committee in late May or early June.

Pence recently returned from New York City where he, along with other Oversight Subcommittee members, met with U.N. officials.

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